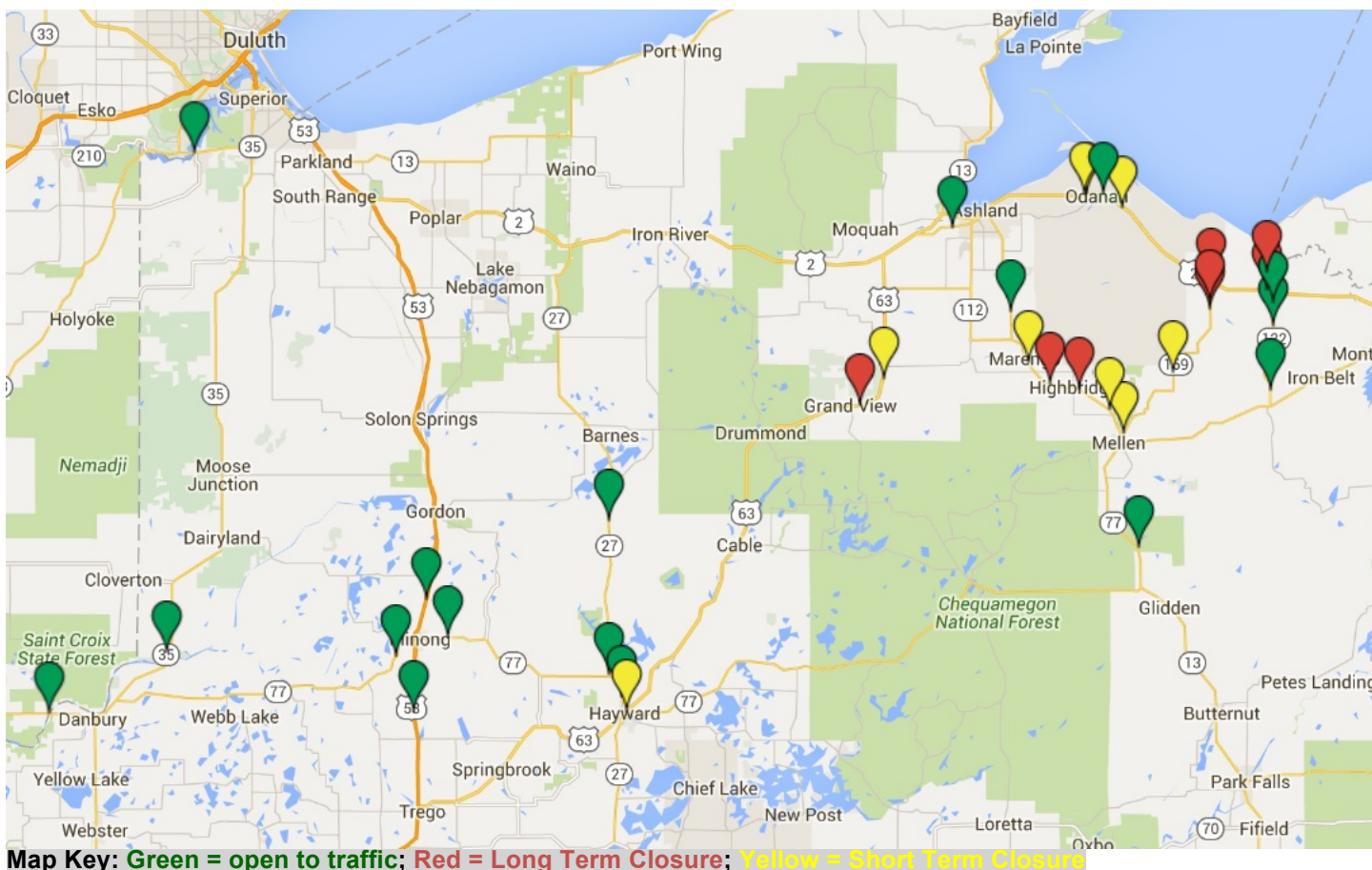




Division of Transportation System Development

DOT Briefing Paper

Project Name: Flooding in Northern Wisconsin July 14, 2016 – 4 PM



Background

Over the evening of July 11 and early morning of July 12, areas in northern Wisconsin received significant rainfall ranging between 5 to 11+ inches. Many state, county and local roadways have been impacted by flooding and washouts. Counties affected: Ashland, Bayfield, Burnett, Douglas, Iron, Price, Sawyer and Washburn. The Governor declared a state of emergency within the affected counties on July 12.

Northwest and North Central regions have been coordinating resources to accurately and efficiently communicate traffic impacts and safety issues. This has been a collaborative effort between many WisDOT divisions: BHM, DSP, STOC, DTSD. OSOW has restricted permits in all affected counties. Counties have been assisting with signing efforts. STOC is controlling 10-20 PCMs used for flooding in the NW and NC regions. DSP has aerial photos available on a shared drive. BHM is working with freight to meet their load needs throughout the flood areas and detours. STOC created a new graphic to indicate both short and long-term closures. This map has been shared with media and on the 511 website.

WisDOT is working to estimate costs of needed repairs. This information should be available by 3:00 PM on July 15.

Ashland County

- US 2 is closed east of Odanah at Lake Road.
- US 2 at Denomie Creek near Bad River in Odanah – culvert washout.

Water has receded to the point where damage could be assessed. Shoulder repairs and pavement repairs are needed along US 2. A 6' void under a bridge slab was discovered and needs to be filled. Ashland County felt these repairs could be accomplished and the roadway re-opened to traffic Friday evening or Saturday morning.

- WIS 13 at Trout Brook in North York between Mellen and Ashland – culvert washout.
- WIS 13 at Silver Creek in Highbridge between Mellen and Ashland – culvert washout.
- WIS 13 south of Marengo near Brunsweller Bridge – washout along roadway.
- WIS 13 at Schwiesow Road between Marengo and White River – road flooded.

Ashland County is working hard to have the damage that occurred on their County Highway C repaired by the end of next week (target Friday 7/22). The County has agreed to the use of County Highway C as an official WIS 13 detour for the duration we need it to make permanent repairs of the roadway at Silver Creek and Trout Brook. This action will go a long ways toward restoring mobility for 95% of our roadway users. County Highway C will provide about 45 mph service, and should serve the vast majority of the trucking needs. All fixups costs, maintenance costs, and final repair costs of County Highway C will be at state expense, and will all be emergency relief eligible. No estimate on these costs yet.

Emergency Contracts will be pursued at Silver Creek and at Trout Brook to replace both washout locations with new bridges. WisDOT will also attach some mainline repairs on WIS 13 with one of the emergency contracts. Expect two separate contracts, one for each bridge. We're working to get a contractor started on Silver Creek by Sept. 1. Can get a plan for Trout Brook by mid-September with contractor starting shortly thereafter. In both cases we don't expect the bridges to be done and WIS 13 to be officially opened to traffic until about December 1.

Bayfield County

- WIS 137 at Wipperfurth Road in Ashland between Sanborn Avenue and US 2 (Open July 13)
- US 63 near Bibon Swamp between Grand View and Mason – water over roadway.

Local roadway fixups on Swede Road so an official WIS detour can be put into service. Bayfield County reached out to the Department and let us know the Town would be willing to allow this roadway to be used as our detour until the washout on WIS 63 can be repaired and re-opened. It is not an ideal roadway, but it can be modified to serve 85% of the traveling public on a gravel roadway that leads to a 24' wide bridge that can handle legal loads. The County will use their resources and contracted forces to add additional gravel material to the roadway, add beam guard at the bridge, and install appropriate signing to accommodate traffic at 25-30 mph on a gravel surface. Vehicles over a certain size will be limited due to weight and width restrictions. An appropriate signing plan will be put in place that continues to route truck traffic onto a longer WIS detour. The County felt they could have this temporary detour in place for use by Friday, July 22.

- US 63 at Twentymile Creek near Grand View, north of Drummond – culvert washout.

An Emergency Contract will be developed for restoration of the US 63 box culvert at Twentymile Creek so it can continue to serve. We also plan to add an additional 4' or 6' steel 'overflow' pipe adjacent to the existing box culvert to provide additional hydraulic capacity. The fill and road core would be re-established, and the upstream side armored with gabion baskets (or similar). We would expect this solution to serve for 10-12 years, at which time it would likely be fully replaced with (likely) a bridge.

- 4 Contractors have been contacted about providing quotes. They are visiting the site today.
- We want to make a contractor selection by the end of the day on Friday and inform the winning contractor.
- We are pushing for mobilization over the weekend, with contract work being started on Monday, July 18.
- Project completion is still undetermined – could be 4-5 weeks.

Burnett County

- WIS 35 north of Danbury at Riverside is open as of July 14
- WIS 77/ MN 48 border bridge west of Danbury now open as of 3PM July 14

Iron County

- WIS 122 between US 2 and WIS 77 (Open as of 10:30 AM July 13)
- WIS 122 closed north of US 2 to Michigan State Line. Long term closure.
- WIS 169 is closed between WIS 13 and US 2 – washouts. Long term closure.

NC Region will be taking the lead on developing an Emergency Contract for the entire length of WIS 169 from WIS 13 to US 2. Ashland County is on board with that approach. The County will complete some limited shoulder repairs as part of this process. NC will communicate details and schedules of their emergency contract process as it evolves. Undetermined schedule yet, but several weeks likely.

Sawyer County

- WIS 27 north of Hayward, off of WIS 77 near Smith Lake – roadway washout (Open July 13)
- WIS 63 in Hayward, water over roadway, road closed at 6PM on July 13.
- WIS 27/ WIS 77 north of Hayward, water over the road, still open to traffic.

Washburn County

- WIS 77 at Oak Tree Drive to County Road G just east of Minong – roadway flooded. Now Open as of 8PM July 13
- WIS 77 at Old Bass Lake Road southwest of Minong – roadway flooded. (Now Open)
- US 53 between Lampson and Minong – roadway flooding. All lanes open to traffic as of July 14.

Monitoring Risks and/ or closure duration

- US 63 in Hayward, water over roadway.

Long-term closures (months):

The following locations may take between 1 to several months to repair. Conversations to secure emergency relief funding has already begun with FHWA.

- US 63 at Grand View (Ashland County) – **working on an emergency contract. Hopeful the repair will take a month.**
- WIS 13 at two points near Highbridge (Ashland County) – **working to detour traffic on a County Highway in the coming weeks. Permanent repairs to the bridges will take up to five months.**
- WIS 122 north of Ashland (Iron County)
- WIS 169 corridor (Iron County)

Local Public Assistance

The Department of Transportation will work with local communities to make funds available for infrastructure repair. Staff are inspecting and documenting the impacts and damages to existing infrastructure.

Next steps

WisDOT will have on-going coordination with county forces for repairs throughout regions and internal coordination meetings regarding repairs to long term sites (scope/cost/method of contracting/timeline).

WisDOT NW Region staff met with FHWA and WisDOT central office in Hayward to look at sites in Sawyer and Ashland Counties to evaluate for emergency relief funding. **WisDOT is working to estimate costs of needed repairs. This information should be available by 3:00 PM on July 15.**

